General Mailing Address and Phone:

(See License and Permit section for permit application mailing address.)

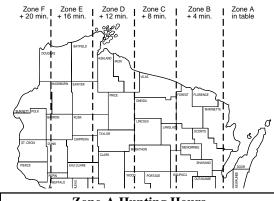
Department of Natural Resources Box 7921 Madison, Wisconsin 53707 608-266-2621

DNR Field Stations

Office hours 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mo	onday–Friday
South Central Region (Madison)	. 608-275-3266
Central Office Info Center	608-266-2621
Dodgeville	608-935-3368
Horicon	. 414-387-7860
Southeast Region (Milwaukee)	. 414-263-8500
Hartford (Pike Lake)	. 414-670-3400
Kettle Moraine State Forest S. Unit	. 414-594-6200
Plymouth	. 414-892-8756
Sturtevant	. 414-884-2300
Northeast Region (Green Bay)	. 920-492-5800
Oshkosh	. 920-424-3050
Peshtigo	. 715-582-5000
Sturgeon Bay Service Center	. 920-746-2360
West Central Region (Eau Claire)	. 715-839-3700
Baldwin	. 715-684-2914
Black River Falls	. 715-284-1400
La Crosse	. 608-785-9000
Wausau	. 715-359-8126
Wisconsin Rapids	. 715-421-7800
Northern Region	
Antigo	. 715-627-4317
Brule	. 715-372-4866
Cumberland	. 715-822-3590
Park Falls	. 715-762-3204
Rhinelander	. 715-365-8900
Spooner	. 715-635-2101
Superior	
Woodruff	. 715-356-5211

Hunting Hours:

The six hunting hour zones are shown. Actual Zone-A hunting hours are listed below. To determine the opening (a.m.) and closing (p.m.) time for any day in another zone, add the minutes shown on the map for that zone to the Zone-A time listed on the table.



Zone-A Hunting Hours				
Date		A.M.	P.M.	
Sept.	12	5:58	7:23	
	13	5:59	7:21	
	14	6:00	7:19	
	15	6:01	7:17	
	16	6:02	7:15	
	17	6:03	7:14	
	18	6:04	7:12	
	19	6:05	7:10	
	20	6:06	7:08	
	21	6:07	7:06	
	22	6:08	7:05	
	23	6:10	7:03	
	24	6:11	7:01	
	25	6:12	6:59	
	26	6:13	6:57	
	27	6:14	6:56	
	28	6:15	6:54	
	29	6:16	6:52	
	30	6:17	6:50	
Oct.	1	6:18	6:48	
	2	6:20	6:47	
	3	6:21	6:45	
	4	6:22	6:43	
	5	6:23	6:41	
	6	6:24	6:40	
	7	6:25	6:38	
	8	6:26	6:36	
	9	6:28	6:35	
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Pub. No. WM197 98

1998

Wisconsin Bear Hunting Regulations



Season Dates

Portions of Zone A, subzone A1, and B where dogs **are** permitted:

bait and methods **not** utilizing dogs: Sept. 12–Oct. 2

> with aid of dogs only: Sept 19–Oct. 9

Zone A, B and C where dogs **are not** permitted: Sept. 12 – Oct. 9



Department of Natural Resources Box 7921 Madison, Wisconsin 53707

Dear Wisconsin Bear Hunter:

The 1997 season was another great year for bear hunters and all indications are that future seasons will continue to draw new hunters to the bear season. Harvests similar to 1997's of 2,300 will be necessary to keep our state's bear population at a level that is both biologically and socially acceptable.

The 1998 bear application and license requirements have changed and will especially affect hunters who have applied for a license in the past. Please read this pamphlet carefully and make sure that you understand how each of these changes apply to your personal situation.

I would like you to consider why many of the changes described in this pamphlet were instituted. Many were made in an attempt to correct past abuses that tarnished the public's perception of not only bear hunters, but hunters in general. The back tag requirement is one example of a change that was instituted to address concerns with trespass. Another is the requirement that all participants (12 years and older) in the dog training and hunting seasons must have a Class B license in their possession, and wear the back tag during both the training and hunting seasons.

Wisconsin's healthy bear population will continue to provide high quality hunting opportunities far into the future. Hunting, however, will only be assured through the continued cooperative management efforts of the bear hunting community, landowners, and the Department of Natural Resources. The near future brings many challenges from organizations attacking hunting on many fronts and in many forums. The high profile activity of bear hunting is under a great deal of scrutiny. We believe that our season structure and opportunities are some of the best in the United States. We want to avoid actions that will compromise our ability to monitor and manage the Wisconsin bear population.

I hope all of Wisconsin's citizens will view these changes in how we hunt bear in our state as positive steps towards addressing some of the concerns about bear hunting, while maintaining a strong and professionally managed bear population.

Sincerely,

Bill Mytton, Deer and Bear Ecologist Bureau of Wildlife Management

Licenses and Permits

To Apply:

The application deadline for both Class A and Class B bear licenses is the Friday nearest January 15. Applications are available at DNR Service Centers listed on the back. A \$3.00 application fee must be submitted with each bear license application.

Class B License (Residents: \$8, Non-residents: \$40)

Formerly called a "bear pursuit" license, a Class B license is required to *assist* a bear harvest permit holder in hunting activities, including baiting and dog training. To *assist* with the bear hunt means helping a Class A license holder hunt a bear by handling dogs, locating bear, or engaging in other bear hunting activities that enable the Class A licensee to locate bear. You do not need to be with a Class A license holder to place bait. A Class B license is required of all members of a dog training group (12 years and older) if they are handling dogs, locating bear, or assisting the dog owners in locating bear, monitoring radios, trailing, or tracking. Persons under the age of 12 can engage in any of these activities without purchasing a license.

Class A License (Residents: \$41, Non-Residents: \$201)

Formerly called a "bear harvest permits", a Class A bear license allows the holder to shoot and tag a bear. It also includes all the privileges of a Class B bear license.

Bear Hunting Back Tag

A bear hunting Back Tag is issued to all Class A and Class B bear licensees. Back tags must be warn while hunting bear, training dogs, or assisting the holder of a Class A bear license. Back tags do not have to be worn while baiting bears.

Permit Issuance

The number of bear permits issued per management zone is based upon previous hunter success rates and current bear population estimates.

Hunters are selected using a cumulative preference system. Applicants who have been unsuccessful for the greatest number of years are chosen first. Hunters must apply every 3 years to maintain their preference status.

Firearm and Archery Restrictions

It is illegal to:

- Hunt bear with any rim-fire rifle, .17 caliber center-fire rifle, .410 shotgun, fully automatic fire-arm, or with ammunition loaded with full metal jacket, non-expanding type bullets.
- ❖ Use handguns, unless they are loaded with .357, .41 and .44 magnum caliber cartridges or any other caliber handgun chambered for commercially-manufactured cartridges which produce a minimum muzzle energy of 1,000 foot pounds. These handguns must have a minimum barrel length of 5½ inches measured from the muzzle to the firing pin with the action closed.
- Use a muzzleloader, unless it is a smoothbore muzzleloading firearm of .45 caliber or larger, or a rifled muzzleloading firearm of .40 caliber or larger.
- Hunt bear with a bow having a pull of less than 30 pounds, or to use arrows which have metal broadhead blades less than seven-eighths of an inch wide.
- Possess while hunting, any crossbow (except permanently disabled residents and nonresidents under DNR permit) or poisoned, drugged or explosive tipped arrow.
- Possess, place or transport, in or on any moving or stationary vehicle, any firearm, bow or crossbow, unless the firearm is unloaded and enclosed within a carrying case, and the bow or crossbow is unstrung or enclosed within a carrying case.

Road Hunting

It is illegal to:

- ❖ Hunt within 50 feet of the roadway's center.
- Discharge a firearm, or shoot an arrow from a bow or a bolt from a crossbow from or across a highway or within 50 feet of the roadway's center.

This prohibition applies to all public roads which are either paved or indicated on a current Department of Transportation county highway map. Unpaved fire lanes are exempt and shown as dotted lines on county maps.

Note: Class A disabled permit holders are exempt from certain portions of this requirement when hunting from a stationary vehicle. Contact your local DNR office for more information.

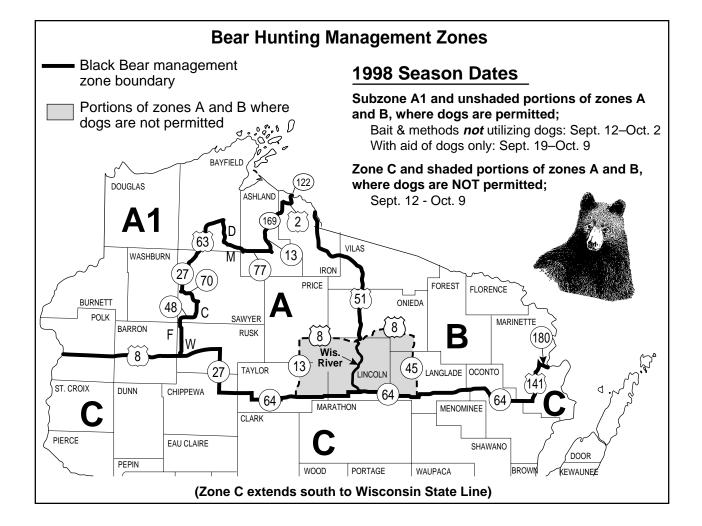
Other Restrictions

It is illegal to:

- Shoot or molest any bear in a den, hunt bear in any dump or sanitary landfill, or kill a cub or any adult bear accompanied by a cub or cubs. If you're not sure, don't shoot!
- Possess a bear carcass unless lawfully tagged.
- Sell, buy, trade or barter bear hides unless the claws, head and teeth are attached, and you possess a valid Class A bear license or taxidermist license. Bear claws and teeth may not be sold, purchased, traded or bartered when separated from the hide. The sale of other bear parts is also prohibited.

Bear Hunting Management Zones

❖ Hunters who apply for and receive a Class A bear license for subzone A1 may hunt only in subzone A1. Hunters who receive a Class A bear license to hunt in zone A may hunt in subzone A1 or any part of zone A. Zone A has been split in an effort to shift hunting pressure from the more heavily hunted portions of zone A to subzone A1, an area which has traditionally received less pressure and has had greater numbers of bear damage and nuisance complaints. Because A1 is a subzone and falls within zone A, the State Administrative Code requires that hunters with zone A licenses be allowed to also hunt in subzone A1.



Baiting

It is illegal to:

- Place, use or hunt over bait contained within or containing metal, paper, plastic, glass, wood other than hollow stumps or other nondegradable materials.
- Use any bait material, liquid or scent for attracting wild animals containing honey, bones, fish, meat, solid animal fat (which includes bacon grease) or parts of animal carcasses.
- Place or hunt over bait, liquid or scent within 50 yards of any trail, road or campsite used by the public.
- Hunt over bait, liquid or scent during the archery season without possessing a valid, unused bear harvest permit or archery deer tag.
- ❖ Use or hunt over a baited area containing more than 10 gallons of bait material, liquid or scent.
 - Note: You may hunt over material deposited by natural vegetation or found solely as a result of normal agricultural practices.

Tagging and Registration

- ❖ Immediately upon killing, and before field dressing or moving the bear, you must validate the carcass tag by slitting the marks indicated on the tag. Immediately following validation, the carcass tag shall be attached to the bear at any location on the bear.
- ❖ Bear may be quartered prior to registration.
- Each bear must be registered within the county or adjoining county in which the bear was killed and within the black bear management zone or subzone in which it was killed no later than 5:00 pm on the day after the kill.
- The person who tags the bear must keep the carcass and registration tag with the butchered meat until it is consumed.

Transport

It is illegal to:

- Transport another person's unregistered bear unless accompanied by the person issued the carcass tag. Once registered, anyone may transport the animal.
- Transport an unregistered bear, in or on a vehicle, unless the animal is openly exposed and placed so that the riders cannot handle the carcass tag.

Note: Residents and nonresidents may transport legally possessed bear out of state.

Dog Training and Use

It is illegal to:

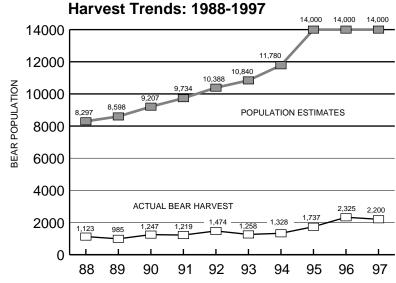
- ♦ Hunt bear with dogs, except in the non-shaded portions of zones A, A1, and B of the bear hunting management zones map during the season for dogs.
- Train dogs by pursuing bear except during July 1 through August 31. Bear dog training is not permitted during the bear hunting season.

Train dogs on DNR lands, from April 15 through July 31, unless the dog is on a leash no longer than 8 feet, except on Class 1 field trial grounds or for bear dog



- ❖ Hunt or train dogs unless one person in the group has on their person rabies tags or dog license tags for each dog.
- Hunt, train dogs, or pursue bear with a dog that is not tattooed, or that isn't wearing a collar with the owner's name and address attached.
- ❖ Allow the dogs to kill any wild animal.
- Hunt, train dogs, or pursue bear with more than 6 dogs in a single pack, regardless of the number of bear hunters or the dog's ownership.
- Replace a dog engaged in the pursuit of a bear with another dog. However, dogs may be added to the pack up to the maximum of 6 dogs.
- Hunt or pursue any free-roaming wild animal with the aid of any dog, from May 1 to June 30, north of the highways shown on the map below, except for dog trials and training under DNR permit.
- A Class B license is required of all members of a dog training group (12 years and older) if they are handling dogs, locating bear, or assisting the dog owners in locating bear, monitoring radios, trailing, or tracking. Persons under the age of 12 can engage in any of these activities without purchasing a license.





Bear Population and

Bear Damage Assistance

Bear damage to crops is sometimes severe enough that the DNR may authorize landowners to kill bears prior to the fall hunting season. We know that many hunters wish to improve hunter-landowner relationships and would be willing to assist in the shooting of bears causing damage. Willing hunters would be expected to act promptly, within 48 hours of notification, and get to the damage site to assist the landowner. Since shooting is restricted to the damage site, dog use is not allowed. Interested hunters should contact their local DNR office for more information.

The contents of this pamphlet were prepared by the Department of Natural Resources. A portion of the printing costs were paid for by the Wisconsin Bow Hunters' Association and the Wisconsin Bear Hunter's Association.



Wisconsin Bow Hunters' Association PO Box 240 Clintonville, WI 54929



Wisconsin Bear Hunters' Association 853 Badlands Rd. Hudson, WI 54016

SUPPORT ETHICAL RESPONSIBLE HUNTING

REPORT VIOLATIONS
CALL 1-800-847-9367

Toll Free • Statewide • 24-Hour • Confidential

(This is not an information number.)

All conservation wardens may enter private lands at any time while performing their duties.